

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD

Project Name: Electrical Line R\W OR 64263

CE OR116-08-30

Location: See description below and attached.

BLM Office: Ashland R.A., Medford District. Phone # (541) 261-3545

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to authorize a right-of-way grant to PacifiCorp for maintenance, use, and repair of an existing 7.2kv aerial electrical distribution line at the upper end of Bishop Creek Road, near Ruch. This line is located in the NE¼ Section 25, Township 38 South, Range 3 West, W.M, Jackson County, Oregon. The right of way is 40 feet wide, 1,700 feet long and includes approximately 1.56 acres. This right-of-way grant re-authorizes OR 5231 which has expired. The grant term would be 50 years.

1. Mechanized equipment is not allowed off of existing roads, for non-emergency maintenance work, without prior authorization (and appropriate NEPA documentation) from the BLM.
2. All vegetation treatments must be preceded by consultation with the BLM; treatment prescriptions will be developed and approved by the BLM through appropriate NEPA documentation.
3. Noxious weed treatments may be required for Pacific Corp maintenance work performed off of the County road traveled way. These treatments may be required before and after Pacific Corp maintenance work. All equipment must be washed before entering the site for routine maintenance or non-emergency repairs.
4. Power poles and lines must be constructed and maintained to protect raptors from electrocution.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

The proposed action is in compliance with and is tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)* as amended by the *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007). The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994).

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 E (16). The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. The proposed action will:

Yes No
() ☒

Categorical Exclusion Exception

1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.

- () ☒ 2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- () ☒ 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] not already decided in an approved land use plan.
- () ☒ 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.
- () ☒ 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- () ☒ 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects. (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).
- () ☒ 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- () ☒ 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
- () ☒ 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- () ☒ 10. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- () ☒ 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
- () ☒ 12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

Leslie Voelkel	Realty Specialist	4-17-2008
Prepared by	Title	Date

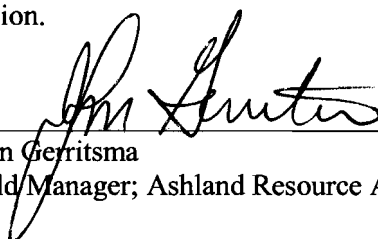
Kristi Mastrofini	Environmental Coordinator	4/29/08
Reviewed and Edited by	Title	Date

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The proposed action has been reviewed against the twelve criteria listed above for an exception to a categorical exclusion and does not fall under any exception as identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. Therefore, this project is categorically excluded from NEPA documentation under 516 DM 11.9, E (16).

DECISION

Based on this NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW, I have determined that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2 Appendix 2 and Section 11.9 E (16) involves no significant impact to the human environment and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to authorize the requested road R/W grant OR 64263 as described above in the Proposed Action.



John Gerritsma
Field Manager; Ashland Resource Area

6/27/08

Date

EFFECTIVE DECISION DATE

This decision is effective upon signing by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect pending any appeal (43 CFR Part 2801.10(b)).